

**Remarks**

The Office Action dated July 26, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing remarks are made in response thereto. In view of the above claim amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 90 and added substitute claims 91 to 134 to better define the claimed invention. Applicants further submit that no new prohibited matter has been introduced by the amendments. While written description support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, specific support for these new claims can be found as indicated in the following chart.

<b>Claim No.</b>	<b>Support in Specification</b>
91	paragraphs 37, 38, 45 and original claim 2
92 to 97	paragraph 84 and original claim 52
98 and 99	paragraph 89 and original claims 17 to 20
100 to 105	paragraphs 36, 39, 41
106 and 107	paragraphs 36, 39
108	paragraph 48
109	paragraphs 77, 78
110 to 116	examples 1 to 7
117	paragraph 47
118 and 119	paragraph 46
120 to 123	paragraph 46 and original claims 3, 23
124 to 126	paragraph 80
127 to 134	original claims 56 to 57

**Summary of the Office Action**

1. Claims 35 and 82 were objected to due to formalities.
2. Claims 1 to 2, 4, 29 to 30, 41 to 42, 51, 55 to 57 and 88 to 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Login *et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,994,237).
3. Claims 1 to 7, 17 to 43, 45 to 54 and 56 to 89 were rejected under 37 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Platz *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,187,572).
4. Claims 8 to 16, 44 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Platz *et al.*, as applied to claims 1 to 7, 17 to 43, 45 to 54 and 56 to 89 above, and further in view of Odland (U.S. Patent 5,989,498).

**Objection to Claims 35 and 82**

These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting the objection. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

Claims 1 to 2, 4, 29 to 30, 41 to 42, 51, 55 to 57 and 88 to 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Login *et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,994,237). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting the rejection. In view of the substitute claims, however, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner that the substitute claims are directed to the use of gamma irradiation. As the cited reference does not disclose the use of gamma irradiation, Applicants submit that the cited reference does not anticipate the substitute claims.

Claims 1 to 7, 17 to 43, 45 to 54 and 56 to 89 were rejected under 37 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Platz *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,187,572). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting the rejection. In view of the substitute claims, however, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner that the substitute claims are directed to the use of specific types of stabilizers not disclosed in the cited reference. Applicants submit that the cited reference therefore does not anticipate the substitute claims.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 8 to 16, 44 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Platz *et al.*, as applied to claims 1 to 7, 17 to 43, 45 to 54 and 56 to 89 above, and further in view of Odland (U.S. Patent 5,989,498). These claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby mooting the rejection. In view of the substitute claims, however, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner that the substitute claims are directed to the use of gamma irradiation with specific types of stabilizers not disclosed in the cited reference. Platz *et al.* does not disclose, nor suggest, the use of the stabilizers set forth in the substitute claims. Furthermore, Odland does not remedy this deficiency because it does not disclose the use of gamma irradiation (*i.e.*, limited to e-beam radiation), nor the specific stabilizers set forth in the substitute claims. Applicants therefore submit that the substitute claims are not rendered obvious by the cited references.

**Conclusion**

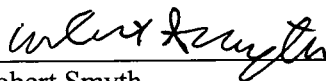
The foregoing amendments and remarks are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. A favorable action is awaited. Should the Examiner find that an interview would be helpful to further prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

**Except** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **constructive petition for extension of time** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3).

Dated: **January 26, 2005**  
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Respectfully submitted,  
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